

# State of South Dakota

## EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2013

187U0660

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1001

Introduced by: Representatives Wink, Bartling, Bolin, Cammack, Campbell, Cronin, Gosch, Greenfield, Haggar (Jenna), Hansen, Heinert, Hickey, Hoffman, Kaiser, Kopp, Latterell, May, Mickelson, Munsterman, Olson (Betty), Otten (Herman), Qualm, Romkema, Rozum, Schaefer, Schoenfish, Schrempp, Solum, Tulson, Verchio, Westra, and Wick

1 A RESOLUTION, endorsing the induction of Tom C. Miller into the PRCA Rodeo Hall of  
2 Fame.

3 WHEREAS, South Dakota has dominated the sport of professional saddle bronc riding since  
4 its inception from the first great champion, Earl Thode, through the incomparable Casey Tibbs,  
5 to the charismatic Etbauer brothers, and on to the current generation well represented by Jeff  
6 Willert, Jesse Bail, and Chad Ferly; and

7 WHEREAS, in all that proud tradition no name shines brighter and no personality rings truer  
8 than the character and integrity personified by Tom C. Miller; and

9 WHEREAS, Tom is a true son of the South Dakota prairie and the lonesome grasslands of  
10 rural Meade County; and

11 WHEREAS, Tom was the trail boss of a rowdy, but successful Black Hills State College  
12 team that deadsolid dominated national collegiate rodeo competition in the early seventies; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom was the perpetual and unchallenged all-around collegiate cowboy working



1 both ends of the area with equal facility and often outscoring, by himself, most of the other  
2 teams entered at a competition; and

3 WHEREAS, Tom possessed the consummate athleticism and determination to excel in all  
4 three roughstock events and could have professionally pursued any of the three with  
5 extraordinary success; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom, nevertheless, chose to concentrate his career on saddle bronc riding with  
7 such singular consistency that he qualified for the National Finals Rodeo six times and won the  
8 average against the best in the world an incredible three times; and

9 WHEREAS, like the legendarily talented Phil Lyne, there is no telling what an impact Tom  
10 might have had on rodeo's record book if he had not always put family and ranch first and kept  
11 the grind of the rodeo circuit in perspective; and

12 WHEREAS, Tom never refused to encourage and coach less talented aspirants, to maintain  
13 a calm and restrained demeanor in the midst of the chaos behind the chutes, and to refrain from  
14 any rowdy behaviors of the kind that might have been detrimental to the best image of the sport;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Selection Committee of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, through their  
17 nomination of Tom, has the opportunity to honor one of the most talented and deserving bronc  
18 riders that ever measured a bronc rein or nodded for a gate; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom's induction would also honor a high plains ranch lifestyle and a set of  
20 solid values that, growing from the South Dakota sod, are as relevant today to a life well lived  
21 as at any time in the history of our nation:

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-  
23 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the House of Representatives of the  
24 Legislature of the State of South Dakota heartily and without reservation endorses the induction

1 of Tom C. Miller into the PRCA Hall of Fame.